

Conspiracy Against God's Anointed

Proclamation Bible Study; Week of Sunday, March 1, 2020; Steve Thiel

Nehemiah leads the exiles in rebuilding the walls and completing the physical city of God. That, however, doesn't come without conflict or conspiracy. Nehemiah points to Jesus, the ultimate city builder, who endured the cross in order to make sinners fit for the eternal city of God.

I. Work Compromised by Internal Conflict – Read Nehemiah 5:1-19

- A. What stands out to you regarding the great outcry and conflict within the covenant community? As you read through verses 1-5, what are some of the different complaints being made?
- B. Evidently some wealthier Jews were taking advantage of the rest of the people of God. In what ways do people today take advantage of those who are devoting themselves to God's work?
- C. As you walk through Nehemiah's call to repentance in verses 6-13, can you identify the different components? What strikes you about Nehemiah's role? How about the Israelites' response?
- D. If you had to evaluate what Nehemiah values most in verses 14-19, how would you summarize it? If people looked at the way you spend your money, what would they determine you value most?

II. Work Challenged by External Conspiracy – Read Nehemiah 6:1-14

- A. How would you summarize the different strategies of Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem? What impresses you the most about Nehemiah's response to each of these different aggressive strategies?
- B. As you think about your own experience in different churches, what are some of the internal conflicts that have most hindered God's work? What are some examples of external opposition?
- C. If you assessed your own commitment to God's glory, promises, and people, what would you give yourself on a scale from 1 to 10? What practical things could you do to increase your evaluation by 2?
- D. How would you like to grow personally in responding well to gospel opposition? Do you need to adjust your plan, approach, expectations, or finances? Or are you in need of greater clarity or growing boldness?

III. Work Completed by Anointed Servant – Read Nehemiah 6:15-19

- A. Despite all of the enemies and opposition, Nehemiah and the people of God are able to finish the city. What goals do you have to see the Kingdom of God advance during the course of your lifetime?
- B. Nehemiah models the wonderful balance of working and yet knowing God is at work. How would you like to grow in working out your own salvation while completely entrusting yourself to God?
- C. Nehemiah points forward to Jesus, whose finished work on the cross provides our entrance into the eternal city of God. But God doesn't call us to repair city walls. Instead, He commands us to make disciples of all the nations (Matthew 28:18-20). How would you like to grow in engaging that work?